

GREENSCENE

E - M A G A Z I N E

South Carolina's Environmental News for Educators • "News Teachers Can Use!"

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More information about DHEC's
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www.scdhec.net/eqc.

Greenville High's Mahaffey named 'Champion' for water quality studies

By Merritt Kearns

Champions of the Environment recently awarded a \$500 environmental education grant to Leslie Mahaffey, a student from Greenville High School who conducted an in-depth water quality study of the Reedy River and other local streams for the past three years.

Mahaffey is a senior at Greenville High and has been interested in environmental issues since she was a sixth-grader when a science teacher sparked her interest. She is now focused primarily on water and soil issues. She began her current project in 1999 by studying a small creek that is prone to flash flooding in her neighborhood. Mahaffey's concern with flash flooding is that soil erosion is a common occurrence during floods. She set out to determine the best way to prevent soil erosion and therefore improve the water quality.



Mahaffey tests water at an upstate creek.

Mahaffey then conducted water quality testing at four public parks along the Reedy River. The results of her project were of interest to a number of environmental groups. She presented her project to members of the Sierra Club, Friends of the Reedy River and the Greenville County Sewer and Water Commission. Mahaffey also received the Stockholm Junior Water Award. If you would like to see the results of her project, they are published in the 2001 third quarter edition of the "Water Environment Association of South Carolina Journal."

Champions of the Environment is proudly sponsored by DuPont, International Paper, WIS-TV and DHEC. With generous support from our sponsors, South Carolina's teachers, students and community groups are awarded \$500 monthly grants from Champions of the Environment in order to educate state's students about the environment. Monthly grant recipients are eligible for the \$10,000 in overall awards at the end of the school year. To download the application or to find out more about Champions of the Environment please visit our Web page, **www.scdhec.net/champions**, or contact Merritt Kearns at **(803) 898-4394** or **kearnsms@dhec.sc.gov**.

DHEC ENVIRONMENTAL OUTREACH PROGRAMS:

Champions of the Environment is a student recognition program that encourages environmental involvement and awareness. The program promotes hands-on learning by recognizing students with exemplary environmental projects that focus beyond the classroom. The program is jointly sponsored by DuPont, International Paper, WIS-TV and DHEC. For more information, visit www.scdhec.net/champions.

The Bureau of Air Quality (BAQ) staff are available to provide presentations on various air quality issues including acid rain, mobile source emissions and ozone awareness. Educational materials for teachers and students, including the Ozone Action Class, are available free of charge. Many of the fact sheets, regulations and other materials may be downloaded from the Bureau of Air Quality Web site, www.scdhec.net/baq.

The Bureau of Water (BOW) provides a variety of educational outreach programs covering runoff pollution, drinking water and wetlands education. Free presentations and educational materials are available upon request. In addition, DHEC's Water Watch program encourages schools, scouts, community groups and residents to become stewards of the state's waterways. Water Watch activities include conducting shoreline surveys, litter cleanups and storm drain tagging. More information is available at www.scdhec.net/water.

The Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRM) offers a speakers' bureau that can address issues ranging from beach erosion and dune protection to best management plans for coastal communities. Programs are available for kindergarten through 12th grade (K-12), college classes and professionals. For more information, visit www.scdhec.net/ocrm.

The Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling (Office) manages "Action for a cleaner tomorrow: A South Carolina Environmental Curriculum Supplement" ("Action"). The activity-based, interdisciplinary K-12 curriculum supplement can serve as a starting place for incorporating basic environmental education in the classroom. In addition to learning about solid waste issues like recycling and waste reduction, "Action" covers energy, air and water issues as well. Workshops are provided throughout the state by DHEC at no cost to schools or teachers.

The Office, in partnership with the S.C. Energy Office, also provides Energy 2 Learn (E2L), an energy conservation awareness program. E2L offers other energy-related programs, events and publications. The Palmetto Energy Awards Program (PEAP) offers students the opportunity to earn prizes for completing teacher-approved, energy projects. E2L: The Summer Workshop is an annual event held to spotlight new and existing energy and environmental education programs and materials. E2L also offers publications like "The Energy Factbook" and the "Science Fair Project Guidebook."

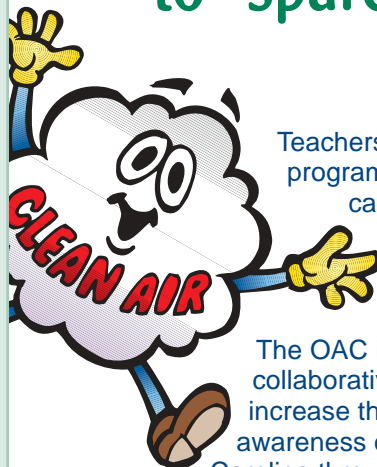
The Green Driver Project targets high school driver education classes, providing them with information about how driving and maintaining a vehicle impacts the environment. Students learn about the importance of recycling used motor oil, maintaining their vehicles, conserving energy, protecting the air and water, preventing litter and promoting driver safety.

Love A Tree South Carolina is an activity-based program that focuses on forest stewardship and paper recycling. Students and teachers can participate in the program which is offered in partnership with International Paper.

For more information on any of the Office's programs, please visit www.scdhec.net/recycle or call 1-800-768-7348.

Do your share to 'spare the air!'

By Amy Curran



Teachers, are you looking for the program that will engage students, capture their interest, and educate them all at the same time? Well, here it is! It's the Ozone Action Class (OAC).

The OAC is designed to be a collaborative, educational, fun way to increase the surrounding community's awareness of air quality in South Carolina through the efforts of local schools. The OAC specifically focuses on finding solutions to reduce ground-level ozone pollution. This program can be implemented as part of the classroom curriculum or into an after-school or summer program. It is designed to be an ongoing program to be used throughout the year. The students will be using their creative, problem-solving skills to complete the tasks. Did I mention that they have to work together in order to be efficient and effective?

The initial task is to explain the information provided on ground-level ozone to the students. Then let the students share their knowledge with the faculty and staff in order to gain their understanding and support. Anything goes from there! You will be provided with several activities to choose from or you can create your own. Have the students start with a few school-wide activities and then have them to move to the next level, which is the local community. An example of a school-wide activity would be to involve the entire school and plan a "Carpool to School Day." Give each grade a task to help organize the activity.

A community activity would be to organize an "Ozone Kickoff" at your school. Get the faculty and staff involved for helping with organizing it. Invite local government officials, TV personalities, and news media. Your work can be turned in to DHEC's "Champions of the Environment" competition if the project meets the criteria. Throughout the year, as completed work is submitted, the students could earn some really cool prizes. We do offer our assistance as needed. Make sure you find out more about the OAC and encourage your school be a part of the ozone pollution solution.

For more information contact Amy Curran at (803) 898-4297 or e-mail curranaa@dhec.sc.gov.



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